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8/AIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: :
VIRGILIO B. LOUREIRO ET AL. :
SERIAL NO: 09/926,681 : ATTN: APPLICATION BRANCH
FILED: NOVEMBER 30, 2001 :
FOR: CULTURE MEDIUM FOR DETECTION
OF DEKKERA AND BRETTANOMYCES

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown in the marked-up copy following this amendment to read as follows.

a₁ 1. (Amended) A differential culture medium for the enumeration of food and beverage contaminant yeasts of the *Dekkera* and *Brettanomyces* genera, characterized in that it comprises a nutrient base, ethanol as the only energy source, p-cumaric acid, an acid-base indicator with turning points in the acid range, an inhibitor antibiotic for sensitive yeasts species, and optionally a bacteria growth inhibitor and agar-agar.

a₂ 9. (Amended) A culture medium according to claim 1, characterized in that it contains all the components except agar-agar, to detect and identify yeasts of the *Dekkera*